









CHINA AND  
THE POWERS.

## The Two Alternatives.

(From a Correspondent.)

The present crisis is occupying the attention of every thoughtful person interested in the fate of China, for if ever this vast empire trembled in the balance, then it is surely now.

The common remark is "Things cutting their way through two thousand rebels into the Capital! This is serious!" Then comes the inevitable question, which has been asked after every attack on foreigners, after every defeat of British diplomacy, after every attempt to overthrow the Manchian Government, the same question which was asked after the issue of the ultimatum, and which is asked now, "What is the end of it all to be?"

Whether this movement in the North is intentionally directed against foreigners, or whether the savage attack on Christians and foreigners is a blind to mislead—the real purpose being to unsettle the Emperor—both of which are only conjectures, it matters little. The fact remains, that the extreme state of China has reached its climax. The people have determined that the relation between a sovereign and his Ministers must not stand at the head of all relations to the detriment of the people's good. They know "some" as their Chinese points out in discussing on the origin of knowledge, "through study" and "some through adversity" the difference between a rule which is just and beneficent and one which is selfish and corrupt. The knowledge gained, whether by observation in Hongkong and elsewhere, or whether by suffering in China, has spread rapidly during the last few years and dissatisfaction has increased in the same ratio. On the other hand, the Government has branded this knowledge as treason and heresy worthy of capital punishment. While, however, it has stubbornly refused to admit the need of a better state of things, the Government has shown, that it is utterly incapable of coping with this state of unrest and dissatisfaction, which is not confined to any particular province.

Something might still be said in favour of the conservative party, if those who form that party could manage the affairs of the nation; but in that they have proved themselves impotent and incapable, they have paved the way to ruin and created for themselves an unenviable position. They tried a rod button and a pocket's feather here, and an execution there, and thought that thus they might stay rebellion, and kill reform; whereas, they should have known, that though they may strike an enemy into submission, or rid himself of him by putting him to death, the principles for which, or against which, he fights will live on, and some day or other will claim fair and impartial judgment. Moreover the Government of China has shown that it is not only incapable of an almost incredible degree—With that state of anarchy and self-dissolution, it has floundered and its urgent appeals, severely checked at the financial work of robbers, pirates, and brigands, and, if we can trust these accounts, then it has gone the rapid length of endangering this last bloody crusade against convicts, miscreants, and even foreigners in their own camp.

Assuming that it is the intention of the Powers to quell this rebellion, what is to follow when that task has been performed? We could suggest that there are only two national alternatives. Either re-instate Kwang Si, and establish a Board of Representatives, which shall guide and supervise his work of reform; or, divide the empire at once. We certainly think that this crisis cannot fail to become a definite turning point in the history of China.

Should it prove otherwise, which Heaven forbid, then future historians will lament that hopes, such as those raised in the bosom of slaves upon hearing that the day of freedom will soon dawn, were ruthlessly dashed to the ground, and they will censure the Powers for putting back the clock of progress, simply because through jealousy they were undecided and divided as to how far they should put it forward. Should war follow this outbreak, as seems most probable, then of the two courses open, the latter may be the only solution of the question for the settlement of which the blood of innocents cries aloud. If the former course were adopted the Chinese generally would rejoice, and there would be secured for all foreigners, a fair field and no favour. But in any case, we trust that China may never again be permitted to order the affairs of her own household, for we have proof and evidence that she knows not how, and that she will not be taught.

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## SUPREME COURT.

## IN CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

(Before His Honour T. Sercombe Smith, Acting Puisne Judge.)

MONDAY, June 18, 1900.

THE MATAUWAI ARMED ROBBERY.

The evidence given at the Magistrate's court was repeated.

The prisoners were found guilty on all the counts and sentenced to seven years imprisonment and 4 strokes with the birch rod, during the first week of their confinement, and 20 within the last week of the first six months of their imprisonment.

(Before His Honour Sir John Carrington, C.M.G., Chief Justice.)

TUESDAY, June 19, 1900.

THE KOWLOON BAY FIRING.

Wong Kwai Yung, Yai, Wong Lam, Wong Tak, Lo Keng, Keng, Koi I, Wong Sang, Kwai Yung, and Chau Lit were charged with (1) robbery being armed (2) receiving stolen goods.

The jurors were Messrs. H. M. Briston, P. F. C. Garg, A. C. Moore, C. G. Ewel, C. H. Blason, S. H. Michael, and W. E. Ruse.

The Attorney General said that on the evening of the 18th May, three fishing boats Nos. 2,507, 1,133, and 3,071—were anchored in Kowloon Bay about ten o'clock when a boat containing 14 or 15 men, came along, and fired at the boats.

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## NEWS BY THE CANADIAN MAIL.

## Britain will be Ready.

New York, May 19.—The Post's London correspondent cables:

"Even though the British Government takes no active action on Russia's defiance of the treaty in Korea, they are of the opinion that the Liberal Leader in the House, unveiled a statue of Mr. Gladstone, whom he entitled, 'The greatest parliamentary figure of our time.' The statue is a bronze figure of the Prime Minister, seated in a chair, and is the work of Lord Rosburgh, Sir William Vernon Harcourt and Mr. John Morley."

A PARABLE.

This parable is addressed to certain persons who treat in themselves that they are indispensable, and despise others.

Two men went up into the Chamber to plead, the one a Pharisee and the other a Publican.

The Pharisee stood and pleaded thus about himself: "I thank God that I am not as other men are, slow-witted, untutored, or even as this Publican. I have done great service to the Colony. I know all its ways."

And the Publican standing afar off would not lift up so much as his eyes unto the house elected rather than the other; for everyone that exalted himself shall be abased, and he that humbled himself shall be exalted.

A Sheffield correspondent says that the great gunmaking house of Vickers has been commissioned to turn out as many guns as possible, and as fast as possible, the half finished ordnance for Japanese and other Governments being put on one side.

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